III. REMARKS

The Examiner states in the 1st full paragraph on page 5 that while claims 20 and 28 recite a useful and tangible result, there are no structural limitations, i.e., computer implementation. It is respectfully pointed out claim 20, line 2, recites a "computer system", while claim 28 recites "computer system" in lines 1 and 2 and also in line 5. Further claim 28 recites a storage medium, which unquestionably a "technological art" since it is structure. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these claims recite structural limitations and hence define a technological art.

Thus, the rejection of claims 20-23 and 28-31 under 35 USC 101 should be withdrawn. If the Examiner wishes additional language in the claims, a telephone conference is suggested.

Although 6,289,325 addresses a mechanism for wiretapping, this patent addresses rather how to create a new message and how to transmit the new message to the sender agent. This is a quite different concept because 6,289,325 only allows to send a request to third party agents. Thus the invention of claims 20-23 and 28-31 are unobvious over claims 14 (sic, 4?) to 7 of US 6,289,325.

If the Examiner still disagrees, applicants offer to file a terminal disclaimer.

Claims 20 and 28 recite wiretapping which is a new concept. The wiretapper agent can send a response to the sender agent even when overhearing a message. This is different from ordinary monitoring function because of no wiretapping concept. Thus

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claims 20 and 28 define over Tada. Hence the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 102 on Tada should be withdrawn.

Claims 22-23 and 30-31 recite that the registration here addresses the wiretapping rather that just a brokering. Since this is not in Tada, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 21 and 29 recite that the wiretapper agents can have a capability to create responses according to request messages and not just brokers. Since this is not in Weber or Tada, combining them does not result in the invention. Thus the rejection of claims 21 and 29 under 35 USC 103 on these references should be withdrawn.

Considering these points in more detail:

Claim 20 of the present application recites an associated message transmission method executed by an agent in a computer system. where the execution environment executes a manager agent for monitoring a message transmitted from the agent. The method comprises the steps of receiving a message from another agent and if the received message is a message addressed to a different agent then preparing an associated message that includes contents associated with the received message. The manager agent then transmits the associated message to the intended agent. As pointed out above, Tada brokers the messages from sender agents. In other words, Tada sender agents do not know who or where the destination agents are. Consequently, Tada cannot disclose or suggest any mechanism where the messages are intercepted and then transmitted to an intended destination agent. Thus, Claim 20's feature of receiving (intercepting) a message and then passing the message

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onto the intended destination agent cannot be disclosed or suggested in Tada. Nor does Tada combined with Weber and its teaching of parsing a message and preparing an associated message disclose or suggest the features of Claim 20. As pointed out Tada does not send messages from agent to agent, but rather from agent to broker. This is not the same as Claim 20 where the messages are sent from agent to agent but may be intercepted by another agent which then passes the message onto its <u>intended</u> destination agent. Consequently, the combination of Tada with Weber fails to disclose or suggest all the features of Claim 20. Therefore, Claim 20 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 21 of the present application recites an associated message transmission method for checking the contents of a received (intercepted) message and for extracting holding information concerning the contents of the received message. Claim 21 then recites a method for converting the holding information into the form of a message. Tada, on the other hand uses a cooperating agent, the purpose of which is to receive messages that are purposefully sent to it from Tada sending agents. This is not the same as present Claim 21 where the message is received (intercepted) and sections of the message (i.e., holding information) are extracted and converted into a message format. In addition, the combination of Tada with Weber still falls short of disclosing or suggesting the features identified in Claim 21 of the present application. Namely, since Tada does not intercept messages, but rather receives them directly and intentionally from the Tada sender agents, parsing the messages as suggested in Weber does not teach the features of Claim 21. Therefore Claim 21 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 22 of the present application recites an associated message transmission method comprising the step of transmitting a condition of messages transmitted from another agent and to be transferred by the manager agent (after interception as described in independent Claim 20). As noted above, Tada alone or combined with Weber fails to teach the features of Claim 22. Namely, Tada uses a brokering agent to receive messages that are directed to it from the Tada sender agents. This is not the same as the present application where the monitoring agent intercepts (receives) the message sent by a sender agent and then as recited in present Claim 22 transmits a condition of the intercepted message. In addition, the combination of Tada with Weber still falls short of disclosing or suggesting the features identified in Claim 22 of the present application. Namely, since Tada does not intercept messages, but rather receives them directly and intentionally from the Tada sender agents, parsing the messages as suggested in Weber does not and cannot teach the features of Claim 22. Therefore, Claim 22 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 23 of the present application recites an associated message transmission method comprising the step of transmitting a registration message for requesting the registration of itself to the manager agent. As noted above, Tada alone or combined with Weber fails to teach the features of Claim 23. Namely, Tada uses a brokering agent to receive messages that are directed to it from the Tada sender agents. This is not the same as the present application where the monitoring agent intercepts (receives) the message sent by a sender agent and then as recited in present Claim 23 transmits a condition of the intercepted message. In addition, the combination of Tada with Weber still falls short of disclosing or suggesting the features identified in Claim 23 of the present application. Namely, since Tada does not intercept messages, but

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rather receives them directly and intentionally from the Tada sender agents, parsing the messages as suggested in Weber does not and cannot teach the features of Claim 23. Therefore, Claim 23 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 28 of the present application recites a storage medium storing an agent in a computer system including an execution environment for agents, where the execution environment executes a manager agent for monitoring a message transmitted from the agent. The method comprises the steps of receiving a message from another agent and if the received message is a message addressed to a different agent then preparing an associated message that includes contents associated with the received message. The manager agent then transmits the associated message to the intended different agent. As pointed out above, Tada brokers the messages from sender agents. In other words, Tada sender agents do not know who or where the destination agents are. Consequently, Tada cannot disclose or suggest any mechanism where the messages are intercepted and then transmitted to an intended destination agent. Thus, Claim 28's feature of receiving (intercepting) a message and then passing the message onto the intended destination agent cannot be disclosed or suggested in Tada. Nor does Tada combined with Weber and its teaching of parsing a message and preparing an associated message disclose or suggest the features of Claim 28. As pointed out Tada does not send messages from agent to agent, but rather from agent to broker. This is not the same as Claim 28 where the messages are sent from agent to agent but may be intercepted by another agent which then passes the message onto its intended destination agent. Consequently, the combination of Tada with Weber fails to disclose or suggest all the features of Claim 28. Therefore, Claims 28-31 are patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 29 of the present application recites an associated message transmission method for checking the contents of a received (intercepted) message and for extracting holding information concerning the contents of the received message. Claim 29 then recites a method for converting the holding information into the form of a message. Tada, on the other hand uses a cooperating agent, the purpose of which is to receive messages that are purposefully sent to it from Tada sending agents. This is not the same as present Claim 29 where the message is received (intercepted) and sections of the message (i.e., holding information) are extracted and converted into a message format. In addition, the combination of Tada with Weber still falls short of disclosing or suggesting the features identified in Claim 29 of the present application. Namely, since Tada does not intercept messages, but rather receives them directly and intentionally from the Tada sender agents, parsing the messages as suggested in Weber does not teach the features of Claim 29. Therefore Claim 29 is patentable and should be allowed.
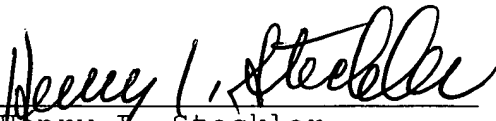
Claim 30 of the present application recites a storage medium wherein the agent further causes the computer system to perform a step of transmitting a condition of messages transmitted from another agent and to be transferred by the manager agent, as a monitor registration message to the manager agent. As noted above, Tada alone or combined with Weber fails to teach the features of Claim 30. Namely, Tada uses a brokering agent to receive messages that are directed to it from the Tada sender agents. This is not the same as the present application where the monitoring agent intercepts (receives) the message sent by a sender agent and then as recited in present Claim 30 transmits a condition of the intercepted message. In addition, the combination of Tada with Weber still falls short of disclosing or suggesting the features
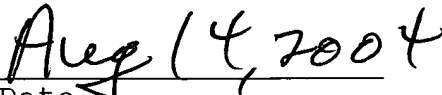
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identified in Claim 30 of the present application. Namely, since Tada does not intercept messages, but rather receives them directly and intentionally from the Tada sender agents, parsing the messages as suggested in Weber does not and cannot teach the features of Claim 30. Therefore, Claim 30 is patentable and should be allowed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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